

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
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UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1436

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SF, US, ILO
SUBJECT: GROBBELAAR COMMENTS ON ILO MEETING

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1392

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE, WHICH CONTAINS ARTHUR GROBBELAAR'S COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT MEEING OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION, WAS PUBLISHED IN THE JUNE 8 EDITION OF THE RAND DAILY MAIL PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA.
2. QUOTE: SOUTH AFRICA'S RESTRICTIVE BLACK LABOR POLICIES WILL BE ATTACKED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION WHICH OPENS IN GENEVA THIS WEEKEND. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA, MR. ARTHUR GROBBELAAR, WHO WILL ATTEND AS AN OBSERVER, SAID SATURDAY AND SUNDAY WOULD BE DEVOTED TO A DEBATE ON
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SOUTH AFRICA'S POLITICAL AND LABOR POLICIES. MR. GROBBELAAR WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF TUCSA, MR. STEVE SCHEEPERS. BACKGROUND TO THE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE AN ILO SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT WHICH CLAIMS THAT THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF " APARTHEID LABOR POLICIES" HAS RESULTED IN BITTERNESS AND RESENTMENT THAT POSE " THE GRAVEST THREAT TO SOUTH AFRICA'S STABILITY" ILO

GOVERNMENT AND EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES WILL NOT TAKE PART
IN THE DISCUSSION. THE LIKELY DIRECTION OF THE DEBATE
IS APPARENT FROM THE DOCUMENT'S REFERENCE TO " THE STATUS
RESERVED FOR AFRICAN WORKERS IN AN ECONOMY WEDDED TO THE
PRINCIPLES OF WHITE DOMINATION ENDANGERED SOCIAL PEACE
IN SOUTH AFRICA". MR. GROBBELAAR SAID THE MAJOR ISSUE
AT THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WOULD
CARRY OUT ITS THREAT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE WORLD LABOR
BODAY BECAUSE OF ITS PREOCCUPATION WITH POLITICS. THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SERVED NOTICE ON THE ILO TWO
YEARS AGO THAT IT WAS " TOO POLITICISED". MR. GROBBELAAR
SAID IF THE UNITED STATES PULLED OUT, IT COULD BE THE
END OF THE ILO. NOT ONLY DID THE UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTE
25 PERCENT OF THE ORGANIZATION'S FUNDS, BUT IF THE
UNITED STATES WITHDREW WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS
COULD FOLLOW. MR. GROBBELAAR SAID HE HAD NO RIGHT
TO SPEAK AT THE CONFERENCE BECAUSE SOUTH AFRICA WITHDREW
ITS MEMBERSHIP IN 1964 - END QUOTE. KIRBY

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